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REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 8-14 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented by the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claim 8 is the single claim presented in independent form.

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/DE00/01882, filed June 14, 2000, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of a corresponding Federal Republic of Germany patent application, filed June 14, 1999.

The claims being entered via the present Preliminary Amendment are intended to substitute for Claims 1-7 of the P.C.T. international application, as amended on September 4, 2001. An English translation of the P.C.T. international application and of the amended disclosure and claims is being concurrently filed.

The current Specification is the English translation of amended Pages 1 - 3 (as amended on September 4, 2001); and, the English translation of Pages 4 - 12 of the originally-filed P.C.T. application; all as amended by this Preliminary Amendment.

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New Claims 8-14, which have been drafted in conformance with U.S. claim practice. Various formal amendments have also been entered to the Specification, and an Abstract for the application, on a separate sheet of paper, is enclosed.


A "marked-up" version of the amendments to the Specification is enclosed.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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